



**Cheann Foirne**  
Chief of Staff  
**Lieutenant General Seán McCann**

COS 1 - 3

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012

**Mr Michael Walker**  
**Lakeview**  
**Crohyboyle**  
**Dungloe**  
**Co Donegal**

Dear Mr Walker,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 9/11/12.

As you are aware the findings of the Callanan Report were accepted by the Government and the Defence Forces.

On foot of that acceptance the Minister for Defence on behalf of the Government and as Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces I apologised to the families of Cpl Fintan Heneghan, Pte Mannix Armstrong and Pte Thomas Walsh who were tragically killed in the events of 21 March 1989.

The Defence Forces insists on the highest standards of "Force Protection Measures" at all times for troops deployed on operations at home and abroad. A fundamental part of those measures is a detailed Threat Assessment to ensure that troops will never be deployed unnecessarily in a high threat scenario which was the fundamental failure as identified in the Callanan Report.

I recognise that these deaths also impacted on the friends and colleagues of those killed particularly those serving with the 64<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion. In this regard I acknowledge the distress that the incident itself caused but also the stress associated with the efforts to have a more comprehensive inquiry into the incident which ultimately resulted in the Callanan Inquiry.

The Defence Forces greatly regrets that it has taken so long to finally bring these tragic events to a close for all concerned.

**Seán McCann**  
**Lieutenant General**  
**Chief of Staff**



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